



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

November 14, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *[Signature]*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – AVA-LYN'S  
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Ava-Lyn's Group Home (Group Home or Agency). The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

The Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and observations of children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Children are not developmentally able to participate in interviews; therefore, observation of children and supporting documentation were used to determine the appropriateness

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of program services provided by the Agency, and adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, Ava-Lyn's Group Home needs to repair the scratched and worn wood floors and furniture in the living room and dining room; and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans with input from the treatment team.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:cr  
[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachment**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer  
Edith Avanzado, Executive Director, Ava-Lyn's Group Home  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Ava-Lyn's Group Home**  
**1756 North Hill Avenue**  
**Pasadena, California 91104**  
**Phone: (626) 794-3916**  
**License Number: 191222785**  
**Rate Classification Level: 10**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation**

#### **Comments:**

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate lighting in the Group Home, and the Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the wood floors, and several furniture pieces in the living and dining rooms are scratched and worn.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Ava-Lyn's Group Home management:**

- a. Repair wood floors in the living and dining rooms.**
- b. Repair or replace worn furniture in the living and dining rooms.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

One child's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) is developed and implemented by the treatment team with input from the child; however, the other child's NSP is not.

The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

**Recommendations****2. Ava-Lyn's management:**

- a. Include the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans for all children.
- b. Develop and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short term and long term goals for all children.

**Educational and Emancipation Services****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

**IV. Recreation and Activities****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section**

**VI. Personal Rights****Method of assessment –Observation****Comments:**

Children are not able to participate in the interviews, as they are developmentally delayed and non-verbal.

Based on our observations, children appear to be informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children appear to feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children's interactions with staff appear appropriate, and staff appears to treat children with respect and dignity.

Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Discipline policies appear to be appropriate and consistent.

Children appear satisfied with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and observation**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes, as appropriate. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose, as appropriate.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**Ava-Lyn's Group Home  
1756 North Hill Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
(626) 794-3916**

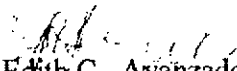
September 26, 2005

Ms. Candace Rhue  
Group Home Audit Supervisor  
Department of Auditor-Controller  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Dear Ms. Rhue:

Enclosed herewith is a corrective action plan.

Sincerely,

  
Edith C. Avanzado  
Executive Director

Ava-Lyn's Group Home  
1756 North Hill Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
(626) 794-3916

## **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

### **I. Facility and Environment**

The facility shall ensure that its wood floors in the living and dining rooms are well maintained and in good repair at all times, including furniture in the living and dining rooms.

Wall-to-wall carpeting was installed in both the living and dining rooms. Worn out furniture in the same areas have been replaced. The Executive Director will make a monthly inspection of the physical plant, appliances and equipment to ensure that all are in good repair and in good working condition to prevent occurrence of this deficiency. The Administrator was in-serviced to make a repair log and call it in to maintenance staff for any needed repair.

July 6, 2005

  
Edith C. Avanzado

### **II. Program Services**

The Social Worker was given an in-service by the Executive Director to develop and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include short term and long term goals for all children. In developing the Needs and Services Plans, the Social Worker should include input from the treatment team and the child. The Administrator is assigned to check all Needs and Services Plans of the clients quarterly to ensure they are developed according to regulation and recommendation. Any discrepancy shall be reported to the Executive Director immediately to prevent occurrence of same deficiency.

June 16, 2005

  
Edith C. Avanzado